

Appl. No. 09/887,198
Amdt. dated February 13, 2006
Reply to office action of November 15, 2005

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 15, 2005. The Office Action rejected Applicants' Claims 1, 4-7, 9-13, 15-16 and 28 as being obvious in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,654,800 ("Rieger") and U.S. Pat. No. 6,415,226 ("Kozak") and rejected Claims 2-3, 8, 14 and 17 as obvious in view of the combination of Rieger, Kozak and U.S. Publication 2004/0076279 ("Taschereau").

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks. Applicants submit that all pending Claims are in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants' Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections for Claims 1-17 and 28 because the Kozak patent is not available as prior art to the present patent application for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. §103. According to amended 35 U.S.C. §103, subject matter which is prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is now disqualified as prior art against a claimed invention if that subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. (*See, MPEP 706.02(l)(1)*)).

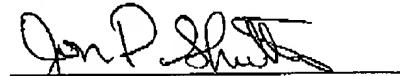
Applicants point out that the Kozak patent and the present application, at the time of the invention of the present application was made, were commonly owned. Therefore, the Kozak patent is not available as prior art against the claims of the present application. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections of Claims 1-17 and 28 be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

With the present response, all the issues in the Office Action mailed November 15, 2005 have been addressed. Applicants submit that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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